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## Resolution 1946-07-18 Winter Drawdowns of Upper Mississippi River Navigation Pools

Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

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And whereas due to the intervention of the war the measure previously endorsed (known as the Buck Bill) did not receive favorable consideration by Congress;

And whereas Congressman Robertson of Virginia, on July 22, 1946, introduced H. R. 7104 in the second session of the 79th Congress to accomplish the objectives originally sought in this Association's endorsement of the Buck Bill and proposes to reintroduce the same measure in the 80th Congress;

Therefore be it resolved that this Association, in convention assembled at Saint Paul, Minnesota, this 10th day of September, 1946, reendorse this proposal and pledge its support to the enactment of such a bill in the coming session of Congress; and

Be it further resolved that a committee be appointed to investigate the wishes of the various states regarding the most suitable formula for the allocation of the funds, and that the committee's findings be brought to the attention of Congress.

**6. Pollution Abatement**

Whereas the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners has repeatedly endorsed legislation to eliminate pollution from the public waters of the United States in order to safeguard public health, to assure adequate future water supplies for domestic and industrial purposes, and to meet the imperative and growing need for public recreational use and for improvement of conditions for wildlife;

And whereas H. R. 6024, known as the Mansfield Bill, was introduced in the 79th Congress, combining the principal features of other bills previously pending before Congress;

Therefore be it resolved that this Association, in convention assembled at Saint Paul, Minnesota, this 10th day of September, 1946, endorses the Mansfield Bill and urges that it be reintroduced and passed at the next session of Congress, and pledges its support thereto.

**7. Winter Drawdowns of Upper Mississippi River Navigation Pools**

Whereas winter drawdowns of the navigation pools in the upper Mississippi river, though never contemplated as a feature of the original nine-foot channel project, were first carried out during the war as an emergency measure to maintain navigable depths downstream for water transportation essential to the war effort;

And whereas such drawdowns are highly destructive to fish and other wildlife and are detrimental to public interests in the river; and since termination of the war the War Department has proposed to continue such drawdowns for the benefit of private navigation interests, to the prejudice of public interests in the river;

And whereas an amendment to H. R. 6097, known as The Wildlife Coordination Bill, prohibiting such drawdowns, passed the House of Representatives at the last session of Congress, but was stricken out in the Senate in order to facilitate passage of the main bill at the close of the session;

Therefore be it resolved that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners, in convention assembled at Saint Paul, Minnesota, this 10th day of September, 1946, opposes all winter drawdowns of the pools in the upper Mississippi river beyond the minimum necessary for protection of the control structures; and urges the War Department to adopt and adhere to a policy avoiding such drawdowns, and that a new bill embracing the principles of the aforesaid amendment be reintroduced and passed at the next session of Congress.

**8. Water Conservation**

Whereas the public waters of the country are a natural resource of the highest value, and the public interests in the protection and use thereof for wildlife and recreational purposes as well as other purposes are of great and increasing importance;

Therefore be it resolved that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners, in convention assembled at Saint Paul, Minnesota, this 10th day of September, 1946, urges that all federal and state agencies concerned adopt and adhere to the following policy: that in all public projects and operations affecting public waters full consideration and weight be given to the needs of wildlife and public recreational uses together with other public uses giving to each class of interests due recognition in proportion to the related public benefits.

**9. Soil Conservation**

Whereas conservation of the soil is universally recognized as of basic importance to the future existence and welfare of the nation as well